**RECIPROCAL QUESTIONING (ReQUEST)**

Recently some middle school and high school students have re-named this strategy:

*Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?*  or

*Stump the Teacher!*

**ReQuest** is an abbreviation of ***re***ciprocal ***quest***ioning. This helps students

* 1. Formulate their own questions about the text they are reading
  2. Develop an active inquiring attitude toward reading
  3. Acquire purposes for their reading, and
  4. Develop independent comprehension abilities.

This requires that students and teacher silently read portions of text and take turns asking and answering questions concerning that material. It is this reciprocal nature of questioning sequence that differentiates ReQuest from teacher-directed questioning strategies and provides the format for students’ active involvement.

1. Both the teacher and the students read the first paragraph.
2. Students turn over their texts.
3. The teacher asks them a question about the text, and they respond.
4. All read the second paragraph.
5. The teacher turns over his/her text.
6. The students ask the teacher question(s), and the teacher responds.
7. Students are much more engaged in the reading because 1) they are being asked questions about the text, one paragraph at a time, and 2) they are eager to read deeply in order to ask a question that will stump the teacher.

In preparing, be sure that the difficulty level of the text is suitable for the students and decide how much material will be read at one time (one sentence, paragraph, page, etc.). The ability and maturity levels of the students dictate the amount of text to be read. Finally, identify appropriate points in the text where predictions will be elicited.